

Public Hearing
August 15, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Fuller Town Hall
Town Police Department

Selectmen Present: Ladd, Davis and Macdonald

Public Present: B. Blodgett, S. Zanes, W. Zanes, W. Labatte, K. Labatte, L. Emerson, G. Routhier, J. Dunlap, J. Dunlap, W. McMann, W. Hurley, R. O'Meara, K. LaFrance, C. Stinson, D. Corbeil, M. Campbell, K. Kerner, J. Kerner, M. Goulet, L. Harding, B. Kettle, J. Champagne, S. Fellows, D. Hall, W. Hall, R. Rheume, S. Walling, T. Laberge, D. Jordan(Colebrook Chronicle) and R. Maxwell (News & Sentinel).

Clayton Macdonald, Selectmen, called the Public Hearing on the Town's Police Department, to order at 6:30 pm and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clayton thanked everyone in attendance, read ground rules and introduced Mike Lynch as the Moderator. Mike said that everyone will need to follow the rules and there will be no repeats allowed.

Clayton presented his opening statement saying that the town presently does not have any active Police Officers but we still have a Police Department and we would like to make things run well. Clayton said that the PD has not been running to the peoples and the Selectmen's satisfaction and that this meeting is to help determine what is wrong and what we can do to fix it. Clayton said that he would like to talk about issues, priorities, other towns and solutions-ideas for a more structure PD, at a price we all want to pay.

Lynette Emerson said that we need a Police Officer at the Town's Election.

Rachel O'Meara asked what the PD does now? (records, crimes-the statistics)

Clayton said that the Town Report has the PD Report for 2015.

Robin Rheume said that she would like to see a PD for security, emergencies, 40 hrs./2 part-time officers and someone trustworthy.

Wayne Labatte said that he would like to have calls or incidences answered instantly, real coverage, On Call 24/7, and ATV Patrol.

Suzanne Goulet said that the town would need to budget for ATV Coverage.

Rob Maxwell said that everyone should put together suggestions for Town Meeting.

Clayton said that we need to act on this as quickly as possible and that he would like to have a proposal for the town in a couple of weeks. Clayton said that things need to be in place for elections.

Ginny Routhier asked what the other towns without a PD do for elections?

Clayton said they use State Police.

Wayne Labatte said that we should go with what we already have, 40 hrs. per week, part-time PD until Town Meeting.

Denis Corbeil asked what the numbers from last year were, if they have increased and does it include the State Police?

Clayton said no on the State Police.

Ben Blodgett said that we should look at the numbers and get information from the State Police.

Clayton told everyone that there are handouts if they would like to pick one up if they haven't already.

Clayton talked about the other towns with PD, what their rate of pay is, hours worked, etc. Clayton said that our pay is low and we have no interest because of it, so what are we going to do?

Wayne Labatte said that he would just like coverage. "Give me something for my money". Wayne said that the Selectmen need to fulfill what the people want is coverage.

Mike Lynch asked if the town can spend more than the budget so that we could post the job at a higher pay wage now?

Wayne Hall said that you are allowed 4-6% over budget for emergencies.

Ginny Routhier- emergencies-Flood or Break-ins? There is a lot of money left in the budget-can we hire someone at \$20.00 until Town Meeting?

Stewart Walling said that they would need to be certified or pay to have them attend the academy.

Robin asked if we could expend the rest of the budget to pay State Police?

The Selectmen said yes and it includes patrol time, equipment, paperwork, all overhead costs, etc.

Wayne Hall said that an officer would need to go through Standard and Training for each department and that takes from 30-90 days. If you would go with a Security Firm there is no hands on, no arrests, all they do is watch and report.

Clayton said that some towns in NH have Community Service Officers, they are visible in town and that is what they do is watch and report to real Police Officers at ½ the budget.

Wayne Hall said that the Selectmen can swear in a Police Officer for one day for elections or get State Police.

Tim Laberge said that the State Police response time is terrible and that it is not better unless they happen to be in town at the time. I don't think that State Police do ATV, just basic police work, not like having your own PD.

Ben Blodgett said that he would like to get information from the State Police actions/calls and compare numbers with time response.

Wayne Hall said that response time with part-time is part-time.

Stewart Walling said that the availability of State Police is low, they run a tight ship.

Clayton said that we can't get coverage because of the situation.

Tim Laberge asked what the cost is per property valuation?

Wayne Labatte asked if having the State Police for 4 hours/week would actually do something for us in this town?

Lynette Emerson said just one year, figure out for full time department.

Wayne Hall asked if the figures from the other towns includes retirement, insurance, health plan, etc.?

Chuck Stinson said that you need to consider the Seasonal Population so the numbers by residence is not accurate.

Judith Champagne asked if we have State Police we do not have to pay gas, insurance, etc.?

Donna Jordan from the Colebrook Chronicle said that even if there is no one on duty and there is an active shooter everyone will be coming.

Wayne Hall said Mutual Aid.

Tim Laberge - State Police log for how much time in Stratford now? Tim was told that the State Police have a 4 hours minimum time block.

Lorraine Harding asked if their time starts when they get here?

Marcel Goulet asked about their overtime rate and if their pay includes mileage, vehicle maintenance, etc.?

Rob Maxwell said that we should move on or we will be here until 9:00 pm and come back with more information and evidence in 10 days.

Donna said that Clarksville contracts with Pittsburg and they are very happy with what they receive.

Suzanne said that we could have contracted with Groveton last year.

Clayton said that he is going to close the meeting for tonight and will look at this again ASAP. Clayton said that he hoped that everyone was satisfied and the Selectmen will look at proposals, numbers and pick another date to do something soon.

Macdonald/Davis (3/0 approved) to adjourn the Public Hearing at 8:09 pm.

Recorded by B. Ladd